

Lambda Laughing Lavender: An Evening of Comedy, Song, and Camp with Lynn Lavner and Doug Lothes.

by Ricky Wilson

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How could a movie that lasts over three hours be done in 18 minutes? The answer, let Lothes do it. All the main characters were there-Scarlette, Rhett, Ashely, Melanie, and of course, Mammy and Prissy. Lothes' fast pacing did not miss a beat. Up to the end of the first part where Scarlette vows she will never go hungry again, He played Scarlette as Vivian Leigh, the woman who won her role. However, for the second part, in addition to playing Ms. Leigh, Lothes ingeniously portrayed Scarlette a la Bette Davis and Katherine Hepburn, two of the women who vied for the role. The audience loved it from start to finish.

Lothes also performed his act at the GAPAC banquet held at Colony Square on November 12. So, if you hear that he is performing his version of "Gone With The Wind", give yourself a treat.

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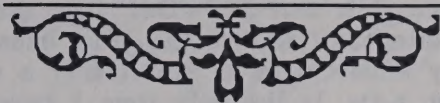
Ms. Lavner claims that she is "the most politically incorrect woman in America, who came in to the world clamoring for a lavender diaper and leather boots." So, when she walked out on stage in full leather regalia-cap, jacket, pants, boots, and an arm band and chest straps, both with spike studs, you would think that you were in for a wild, if not kinky, time. Wrong. What you were in for was a relaxing, provocative evening with Lavner doing her repertoire of campy song banter; wry lesbian, Jewish (she's from Brooklyn) humor; and a broad range of original songs that couldn't help but touch every member of the audience.

Lavner immediately established a rapport with the audience. She seldom looked at the piano keyboard during the show but faced the audience directly as she played and sang.

Her art was disarming throughout the show. Referring to the Barbara Streisand movie, she told the audience, "I'm the real Yentl except I would have known what to do with Amy Irving." Another example of her

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Saccharin Tales



This is my gift to you for this festive season. It is simply a suggestion from the "peanut gallery." This year before the New Year's resolutions and the tons of energy and cash spent on presents and dinners give yourself something that will help you realize your dream of who you want to be. I truly believe opportunities to do this are constantly around whether or not we decide to acknowledge them.

I am giving myself theatre. That is to say, when an opportunity to perform was offered, I made the decision to do it now. This time I am giving this good experience to me because I want it, not because I need it; not because it would benefit the masses. It is good for my dreams of who I want to be.

This season before the madness of gift buying and giving occurs I have to remind myself that giving my life a boost is not only okay but really wonderful. There will be plenty of emphasis placed on the purchase of material and tangible items as presents. It is vital to recognize the valuable gifts we each deserve to give to ourselves. Those gifts, like theatre, that we have put aside.

I walked through the halls of the Little 5 Points Community Center while my fellow actors and directors worked diligently at speaking, projecting, reading lines, developing characters. I knew I was in the right place, even though at this time my lines are concepts and the act in which they will occur has as of this moment, yet to solidify. I was still in the right place.

As a serious affirmation of the artistic quality that is apart of my being, I have taken this opportunity to perform. The excuses of procrastination are not holding up well to pressure from the growth I have made on the inside over the past year. Nor do the excuses hold up well against the loving support given by prodding and kicking friends. (A certain Chuck is notorious for this behavior over pizza. Beware!)

As with truly valuable items or gifts this notion of giving to oneself may take a sacrifice. It may take serious sacrifice, but it is often the dreams of one's self-image that get sacrificed to give some other entities profit progress reports, good quotas and other values that do not touch the soul of our personhood.

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As a popular radio announcer says, "You have the power to live your dream!"

How corny?

How true!

Amethyst Pride

A silver goddess
covered with silver scales
you emerge
wild woman in your wild hair
curling claws
glittering teeth
your body dancing in the light
What are you
Where do you belong
Are you a monster
or a divine soul
I know you are a man
but there's a woman glowing through your skin
Where did it come from
has it always been there
will it ever fade away
Tell me does it hurt
the total unleashing of your senses
Is it freedom you feel
or is it a constant reminder of your cell
that body of yours so malleable
and yet so constant in its form
that holy trap
you tend so well
I guess there's no way out
you belong to yourself
we are but intruders in your act
but you pull us in charmer that you are
and we emerge
companions
comrades in arms against the world

Lavner

(continued from page 3)

cleverness was when she talked about her height, (She stands an even five feet.) She said that, to be politically correct, she should say that she was "vertically challenged" instead of short. Still, another example occurred when she say "That's What My Woman Is," a song dedicated to her lover, Jeanette. Lavner said that they had been together for twelve years, which translated into 25 years straight time.

Angie

The songs ranged from the right out funny to the poignantly moving. Examples of the former were "The Cat", a song about a woman's lament over her lover seemingly preferring their cat over her, and "That Festive Little Neighborhood", which is about something on the water supply where Lavner lives being suspected of turning everyone gay. Three examples of the latter were "Anne Frank", written after a visit to the Dutch citizens who helped hide Jews from the Nazis; "Such Fine Young Men," dedicated to PWA's and PWARC's; and, the number she did for her encore, "For Everyone Who Falls," a tribute to gay and lesbian (s)heroes, which was delivered with such heartfelt emotion that many were moved to tears.

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Pearl Cleage and Zaron Burnett, Jr. produce and direct "Live...". They also appear on the program. In her piece titled, "Robin and Mike", Cleage gave her thoughts on Robin Givens and Mike Tyson's relationship. Also, a regular feature is the Club Zebra House Band (members of the Spelman College Jazz Ensemble) under the director of Joe Jennings. The woman is hot!

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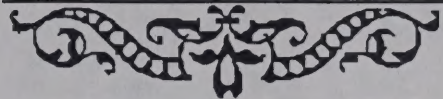
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covered with silver scales
you emerge
wild woman in your wild hair
curling claws
glittering teeth
your body dancing in the light
What are you
Where do you belong
Are you a monster
or a divine soul
I know you are a man
but there's a woman glowing through your skin
Where did it come from
has it always been there
will it ever fade away
Tell me does it hurt
the total unleashing of your senses
Is it freedom you feel
or is it a constant reminder of your cell
that body of yours so malleable
and yet so constant in its form
that holy trap
you tend so well
I guess there's no way out
you belong to yourself
we are but intruders in your act
but you pull us in charmer that you are
and we emerge
companions
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Lavner

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